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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,630	09/26/2001	Philippe Gentric	PHFR 000100	9728

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EXAMINER

SHIN, KYUNG H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/963,630

Applicant(s)

GENTRIC, PHILIPPE

Examiner

Kyung H. Shin

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responding to application filed 9/26/01.
2. Claims **1 - 20** are pending. Independent claims are **1, 8, 16**.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 9/11/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- 3.1 Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose "... receiving a plurality of program and providing simultaneously to each of a plurality of receiving devices a respective one of the plurality of programs ..." (see *Remarks Page 11, Lines 21-24*) ; (see *Remarks Page 12, Lines 22-25*) ; (see *Remarks Page 13, Lines 7-9*)

Examiner must reiterate, the Ellis (6,774,926) prior art discloses: a) a plurality of programs (see Ellis col. 1, lines 26-30: plurality of programs), b) programs provided simultaneously to each of the destinations (i.e. receiving devices) one of the programs. (see Ellis col. 1, lines 32-35: receive programs from a channel (i.e. one program at a time)) Applicant's definition is clearly equivalent to the Ellis disclosure. Multiple programs being filtered in order to deliver one of the multiple programs to a receiving device over a channel. The Ellis prior art discloses an equivalent entity as applicant's invention.

Art Unit: 2143

- 3.2 Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose “... *a plurality of receiving devices connected to a reproduction element* ...” (see Remarks Page 9, Lines 28-29)

The Applicant Specification discloses that the reproduction element is connected to the output of a receiving device. (see Specification Paragraph [0020], Lines 3-4) The Ellis (6,774,926) prior art discloses a reproduction device (i.e. video camera) connected to a destination (i.e. receiving device, personal computer) for the capture (i.e. reproduction) of a program. (see Ellis col. 3, lines 58-61; col. 6, lines 1-8: reproduction capability device connected to receiving device)

- 3.3 Applicant argues that the referenced prior art does not disclose “... *a switch* ...” (see Remarks Page 9)

Examiner must reiterate, by definition, a switch channels incoming data from multiple input ports to an output port that will take the data to its intended destination (i.e. one or more receiving devices).

(1. http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid7_gci213079,00.html)

A definition is an accepted and well known in the art explanation of a term such as a switch.

The Ellis (6,774,926) prior art discloses a system (i.e. a server, a device), which receives the input of programs and its transmission to a set of destination devices. This capability is equivalent to a switch. (see Ellis col. 1, lines 30-32: server system; col. 1, lines 26-30: provide plurality of programs transmitted to

multiple destinations) Multiple program contributors operate to provide input (i.e. a plurality of programs, broadcast or Internet) for the Ellis (6,774,926) prior art. (see Ellis col. 1, lines 26-30: plurality of programs) Then, the resulting output is simultaneously transmitted to multiple destinations (i.e. receiving units). Each receiving unit receives one specific program at a time. (see Ellis col. 1, lines 32-35: receive programs from a channel (i.e. one program at a time))

- 3.4 The examiner has considered the applicant's remarks concerning the delivery of a program selected from multiple programs.

After an additional analysis of the applicant's invention, remarks, and a search of the available prior art, it was determined that the current set of prior art consisting of Ellis (6,774,926) and Killian (6,136,316) discloses the applicant's invention including disclosures in Remarks dated September 11, 2006.

Claim Rejection- 35 USC § 103

The text of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 1 - 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ellis et al.** (US Patent No. 6,774,926) in view of **Killian** (US Patent No. 6,163,316).

Regarding Claim 1, Ellis discloses a receiver of data coming from many programs, the

receiver comprising a first program receiving device, characterized in that the receiver moreover comprises:

- a) a plurality of other program receiving devices adapted to receive programs according to a pre-established criterion; (see Ellis Figure 1 (36 and 38); col. 1, lines 26-35; col. 3, lines 19-23; col. 9, lines 16-19; col. 3, lines 30-35: multiple viewers utilizing user equipment (i.e. receiving devices) for channels (i.e. programs), list of channels (i.e. programs) developed based on user preferences (i.e. pre-established criterion, user profile parameters), receiver devices connected via interface circuit (i.e. communications links))

Ellis does not disclose a reproduction (i.e. sound, audio, media) element and a switch (i.e. an interface). However, Killian discloses:

- b) a reproduction element; (see Killian col. 4, lines 20-28: reproduction (i.e. audio, media) generation element) and
- c) a switch, which is connected to the reproduction element, wherein the switch is adapted to selectively connect each of the plurality of program receiving devices to the reproduction element. (see Killian col. 4, lines 20-28; col. 5, lines 27-29: interface (i.e. switch) for reproduction element)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to utilize a reproduction (i.e. sound, audio, media) element and provide an interface (i.e. switch) as taught by Killian. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Killian in order to enable users to intelligently select, schedule, and record programs within a network connected environment. (see

Killian col. 3, lines 27-33: “ ... *an electronic programming guide ... viewers to more intelligently select, schedule, and record viewing opportunities according to viewer profiles and information received ...* ”)

Regarding Claim 2, Ellis discloses a receiver as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a program indication element which shows a list of the programs that correspond to said pre-established criterion. (see Ellis col. 3, lines 19-23; col. 13, lines 29-35, col. 13, lines 51-53: list of channels (programs) display based on predetermined set of rules (pre-established criterion) such as specific user preferences and user profile parameters (i.e. favorites))

Regarding Claim 3, Ellis discloses a receiver as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the pre-established criterion corresponds to a certain number of programs higher than the number of receiving devices and in that the receiver comprises a program indication element which shows the list of a part of the programs evolving as a function of the user's choice. (see Ellis col. 13, lines 29-35, col. 13, lines 51-53; col. 9, lines 16-19: each user generates personal channels (programs) in addition to standard (broadcast) channels, total number of channels is greater than number of user equipment (receivers), list of programs generated based on user preferences)

Regarding Claim 4, Ellis discloses a receiver as claimed in one of the claims 1, characterized in that the access of the programs takes place in a sequential manner by

Art Unit: 2143

clearing and loading one of the receiving devices. (see Ellis col. 9, lines 41-44; col. 9, line 61 - col. 10, line 16: access to selected channels (programs) using user interface, user equipment (receiver) tuned to new channel after channel selection is completed, channel selection can be sequential)

Regarding Claim 5, Ellis discloses a receiver as claimed in one of the claims 1, characterized in that the programs come from the Internet. (see Ellis col. 1, lines 32-35; col. 3, lines 30-33: communications utilizing the Internet)

Regarding Claim 6, Ellis discloses a method of receiving data coming from many programs used in a receiver as claimed in one of the claims 1, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- a) making up a list of programs that may be received, (see Ellis col. 13, lines 29-35; col. 13, lines 51-53: list of channels (programs) generated)
- b) simultaneously receiving a plurality of programs of said list, (see Ellis col. 15, lines 40-47: simultaneous display of channel (program) and related channel (program) information)
- c) selecting one of the programs from said plurality. (see Ellis col. 9, lines 41-44; col. 9, line 61 - col. 10, line 16: access to selected channels (programs) using user interface, user equipment (receiver) tuned to new channel)

Regarding Claim 7, Ellis discloses a method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a change of said plurality clears at least one reception to receive another program

Art Unit: 2143

of said list. (see Ellis col. 9, lines 41-44; col. 9, line 61 - col. 10, line 16: access to selected channels (programs) using user interface, user equipment (receiver) tuned to new channel after channel selection is completed)

Regarding Claim 8, Ellis discloses an apparatus, comprising:

- a) a receiver, (see Ellis col. 1, lines 26-35: a viewer (i.e. receiver)) including:
- b) a plurality of receiving devices; (see Ellis col. 1, lines 47-51: multiple user equipment (i.e. receiving devices))
- c) a reproduction element; (see Killian col. 4, lines 20-28: reproduction (i.e. sound, audio, media) generation element) and
- d) a switch connected to the reproduction element, wherein the switch is adapted to selectively connect each of the receiving devices to the reproduction element.
(see Killian col. 4, lines 20-28; col. 5, lines 27-29: an interface (i.e. a switch) for reproduction element)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to utilize a reproduction (i.e. sound, audio, media) element and provide an interface (i.e. switch) as taught by Killian. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Killian in order to enable users to intelligently select, schedule, and record programs within a network connected environment. (see Killian col. 3, lines 27-33)

Regarding Claim 9, Ellis discloses an apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein each of

Art Unit: 2143

the plurality of receiving stations is adapted to process a program received from an interface circuit. (see Ellis col. 3, lines 30-33; col. 10, lines 30-33: programs processed utilizing communications link (i.e. an interface circuit))

Regarding Claim 10, Ellis discloses an apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the receiver is adapted to receive a plurality of programs simultaneously and each of the plurality of receiving devices is adapted to receive one of the plurality of programs. (see Ellis col. 1, lines 26-35; col. 10, lines 30-33: multiple programs available to receiving devices, one of the programs received by receiving device)

Regarding Claim 11, Ellis discloses an apparatus wherein connects one of the receiving devices and one of the programs is provided. (see Ellis col. 1, lines 26-35; col. 1, lines 47-51: provide programs to receiving device) Ellis does not disclose a reproduction element and an interface (i.e. a switch)). However, Killian discloses an apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the switch connects to the reproduction element and program is provided to the reproduction element (see Killian col. 4, lines 20-28; col. 5, lines 27-29: an interface (i.e. a switch) to utilizing reproduction element)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to utilize a reproduction (i.e. sound, audio, media) element and an interface (i.e. a switch) as taught by Killian. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Killian in order to enable users to intelligently select, schedule, and record programs within a network connected environment. (see Killian

Art Unit: 2143

col. 3, lines 27-33)

Regarding Claim 12, 20, Ellis discloses a method wherein program receiving devices comprises a display screen. (see Ellis col. 9, lines 56-60: specific user interface (i.e. display screen) utilized by program receiving system) Ellis does not disclose the reproduction element. However, Killian discloses an apparatus and a method as recited in claims 8, 15, wherein utilizing a reproduction element. (see Killian col. 4, lines 20-28: reproduction (i.e. sound, audio, media) generation element)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to utilize a reproduction (i.e. audio, media) element as taught by Killian. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Killian in order to enable users to intelligently select, schedule, and record programs within a network connected environment. (see Killian col. 3, lines 27-33)

Regarding Claim 13, Ellis discloses an apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a remote control box having a plurality of positions, wherein each of the positions corresponds to a program of one of the receiving devices. (see Ellis col. 5, lines 48-53; col. 9, lines 32-38; col. 9, lines 41-44: remote control box utilized, multiple position controls (i.e. channel up/down buttons) utilized for program selection)

Regarding Claim 14, Ellis discloses an apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the remote control box is adapted to change the program at each of the receiving devices.

Art Unit: 2143

(see Ellis col. 5, lines 48-53; col. 11, lines 53-57; col. 11, lines 60-64: remote control box, password authentication enables program control over other receiving device)

Regarding Claim 15, Ellis discloses an apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the remote control box is adapted to rotate the program from one of the receiving devices to another of the receiving devices. (see Ellis col. 5, lines 48-53; col. 11, lines 53-57; col. 11, lines 60-64: remote control device, password authentication enables program control over other receiving device)

Regarding Claim 16, Ellis discloses a method, comprising:

- a) receiving a plurality of programs; (see Ellis col. 1, lines 26-35: multiple programs available)
- b) providing simultaneously to each of a plurality of receiving devices a respective one of the plurality of programs; (see Ellis col. 1, lines 26-35; col. 1, lines 47-51; col. 10, lines 30-33: programs delivered to receiving devices) and

Ellis discloses providing one or the plurality of programs to receiving devices.

Ellis does not disclose a reproduction element. However, Killian discloses:

- c) a reproduction element. (see Killian col. 4, lines 20-28: reproduction (i.e. audio, media) generation element)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to utilize a reproduction (i.e. sound, audio, media) element as taught by Killian. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to

Art Unit: 2143

employ Killian in order to enable users to intelligently select, schedule, and record programs within a network connected environment. (see Killian col. 3, lines 27-33)

Regarding Claim 17, Ellis discloses a method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising changing the plurality of programs provided to each of the receiving devices. (see Ellis col. 4, lines 55-58: change set of programs available to receiving devices)

Regarding Claim 18, Ellis discloses a method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising processing each of the programs provided to the plurality of receiving devices. (see Ellis col. 10, lines 18-22; col. 10, lines 30-33: processed programs provided to receiving devices)

Regarding Claim 19, Ellis discloses a method further comprising changing the one program provided. (see Ellis col. 9, lines 41-44: program change processed by receiving device) Ellis does not disclose the reproduction element. However, Killian discloses a method as recited in claim 17, further comprising the reproduction element. (see Killian col. 4, lines 20-28: reproduction (i.e. audio, media) generation element)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to utilize a reproduction (i.e. sound, audio, media) element as taught by Killian. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to employ Killian in order to enable users to intelligently select, schedule, and record programs within a network connected environment. (see Killian col. 3, lines 27-33)

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H. Shin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2143

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KHS
Kyung H Shin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143

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November 20, 2006



JEFFREY P. WU
PATENT EXAMINER